GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1867
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
DEMAND OF HANDICRAFTS
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of growing demand of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of demand of Indian handicrafts in Gulf countries and in world handicraft market;

(d) whether demand of handicrafts has increased in Indian markets;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of handicrafts and to promote handicrafts?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The assessment of growing demand of handicrafts is made on the basis of export performances. The export of handicrafts which was only Rs.385.58 crores during 1986-87 has grown to the tune of Rs.6967.50 crores during 2001-2002. Based on previous year performance, the target of export of handicrafts are subsequently fixed for the next financial year and accordingly strategy is evolved for participation of exporters in various festival/fairs abroad, organisation of buyer - seller's meet; sponsoring of sales-cum study team abroad and overseas publicity etc. for achieving the targets.

(c): The demand of Indian handicrafts in the gulf countries is very negligible compared to the demand in EEC and European countries. However Saudi Arabia is the major importer of Indian Handicrafts amongst the gulf countries.

(d) & (e): Handicrafts sector being a decentralized and a state subject, no authentic methodology is in existence to assess the demand of handicrafts in the Indian market. However the only indicator to suggest that the demand of handicrafts has increased is the data available on production of handicrafts (including Gems & Jewellery) for the last few years. The figures are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Years	Production of handicrafts including Gems & Jewellery
1.	1998-99	12175.43
2.	1999-2000	13915.56
3.	2000-2001	16340.44
4.	2001-2002	18676.60

(f): The steps taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the quality of handicrafts and to promote handicrafts are as under:-

i) Setting up of Regional Design and Technical Development Centers at Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkatta, Mumbai and Guwahati;
ii) Setting up of National center for Design and Product Development (NCDPD) at Moradabad and Delhi.
iii) Setting up of Metal Handicrafts and Service Centre (MHSC) at Moradabad;
iv) Training for skill upgradatin;
v) Design and technical upgradation;
vi) Marketing;
vii) Exhibitions;
viii) Setting up of craft Development Centre and Common Facility Centre and
ix) Launching of a new comprehensive scheme named `Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasshilp Vikas Yojana` which seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self - reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.